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The Somerville Times

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VOL. 8 NO. 48

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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thankful

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Chief

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A Bricktacular
Holiday Event

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Conway Park reconstruction anticipated to begin in early 2021



Details about the renovations planned for Conway Park were recently shared in a virtual public meeting.

— Photos by Hongyu Liu

By Hongyu Liu

The City of Somerville expects to start renovating Conway Park in early 2021. On November 17, Brandon Kunkel, the team leader of Weston & Sampson Inc., shared more details of the renovation at a virtual public meeting.

The city of Somerville closed the park in March 2019 after soil testing indicated the presence of contaminants including lead and PCBs, some of the levels exceeding regulatory limits.

The 2.8-acre park currently holds a playground, a splash pad, few basketball courts, and a multi-purpose grass field. Kunkel expects the renovation to focus on technology and materials instead of its function. "Hopefully, it doesn't look much different from what is out there today, and it shouldn't, because a lot of the uses are the same," said Kunkel.

Kunkel mentioned that the *Continued on page 4*

'All Small' exhibit aims to connect people and artists

By Anqi Zhang

The *All Small* exhibit at Inside-OUT Gallery located in the windows of the CVS Pharmacy in Davis Square has been open to the public 24/7 from November 10, and will remain there until December 6. Small in scale, size or content, the exhibit aims to get passers-by to appreciate something delicate and subtle while on their way to confronting the big changes happening around the world – the pandemic, climate change, divisive political landscape, and systematic racial injustice.

"Indeed, everything in this world today seems to be enormous, and getting bigger all the time," according to the event page. "The Brickbottom Gallery would like to propose the opposite as a kind of antidote. Bigger is not necessarily better!"

The exhibit showcases the works of members of the Brickbottom Artists Association, in collaboration with the Somerville *Continued on page 6*



The Inside-OUT Gallery's "All Small" exhibit invites to not sweat the big stuff, and to appreciate the smaller things in life. *— Photos by Anqi Zhang*

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

We here at *The Times* wish everyone a happy and safe **Thanksgiving holiday**. Please observe all safety guidelines to make sure we'll all be together again for next year's celebration. And don't forget to **shop local** when starting your holiday gift gathering. This year more than ever it is important to support local businesses.








The recent upsurge in COVID-19 cases means we all need to do our part to **slow the spread**. The safest way to celebrate is to gather only with the people you live with and connect virtually with anyone outside of your household. Need ideas for a special virtual gathering? Check out ideas for a fun, meaningful, and safe holiday at <https://thefamilydinnerproject.org/thanksgiving-care-package/>. And don't forget, whenever you are around others who are not a part of your household, make sure you wear your mask, stay socially distanced, and wash your hands. See more holiday recommendations at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/thanksgiving.html>.

The city is making \$500,000 in **Covid-19 relief funds** available to cover rental and certain mortgage arrears for income-eligible Somerville residents regardless of immigration status who are behind on payments due to impacts of the pandemic. Residents must have an income below the AMI (Area Median Income). Details will be posted to the city website early and funds must be allotted by **December 31**, so early applications are encouraged. **The Office of Housing Stability** will be available to answer questions and provide application assistance as needed. Please be sure to check somerillema.gov early next week for more details. (The HUD-approved AMI for Somerville that applicants must be below is \$83,300 for an individual, \$95,220 for a household of two, \$107,100 for a household of three, \$119,000 for a household of four, etc.).

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 25 – December 1 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>November 25</i>	Cloudy	46°/44°	9%	9%	SSE 9 mph
 Thursday <i>November 26</i>	Rain	58°/43°	69%	32%	SSW 10 mph
 Friday <i>November 27</i>	Cloudy	56°/42°	20%	17%	NW 9 mph
 Saturday <i>November 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	52°/33°	19%	16%	W 11 mph
 Sunday <i>November 29</i>	Rain	53°/43°	41%	31%	SSW 10 mph
 Monday <i>November 30</i>	Rain	50°/38°	39%	29%	SSW 14 mph
 Tuesday <i>December 1</i>	Rain	43°/30°	39%	30%	W 14 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Human Rights Commission addresses hate crimes concerns*

Alex says:

In my personal view, the hateful incidents described here are abhorrent, but in my view as a lawyer, nothing described here clearly rises to the level of criminal. Certainly, at least, negative Yelp reviews (that did not included specific threats of violence), are at most a civil matter, not a crime. I am very happy the SPD is protecting the restaurant and feel bad for the workers/owners/patrons that endured hateful incidents, but I think it is important to be clear on what is criminal and what protected free speech. For better or worse, the 1st Amendment protects hatful speech and actions unless an underlying crime (like assault, i.e. making someone fearful for their life) is committed. The vast, vast majority of hateful speech is not a “hate crime.”

Response to: *Somerville’s all-time favorite restaurant*

Steve Keenan says:

Let’s not forget the Paddock Café that was in Gilman Square, and the Mount Vernon on lower Broadway. These were two of my favorites.

Response to: *Somerville resident to appear with Jaime Foxx for virtual fundraiser benefitting down syndrome*

Steve Keenan says:

Isaiah is an inspiration to all. What a wonderful young man he is. Isaiah, “keep on keeping on!”

Response to: *Somerville Community Corporation leads ‘Illuminated Walk*

Barb Whyte says:

Toews-Moeling is brilliant. Somerville is fortunate she has directed her talents to help them. B

Response to: *Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan Update Public Design Charrette, 11/30-12/4*

B Curtis says:

A bit too late for this?

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Totally. And btw, have another drink. It’s doin’ ya nothin’ but good.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144
news@thesomervilletimes.com
www.thesomervilletimes.com
617-666-4010 • Fax: 617-628-0422

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Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner
Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Denise Keniston,
Isabel Sami, Rachel Berets, Elizabeth Long
Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo,
Blake Maddux, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Being carefully thankful

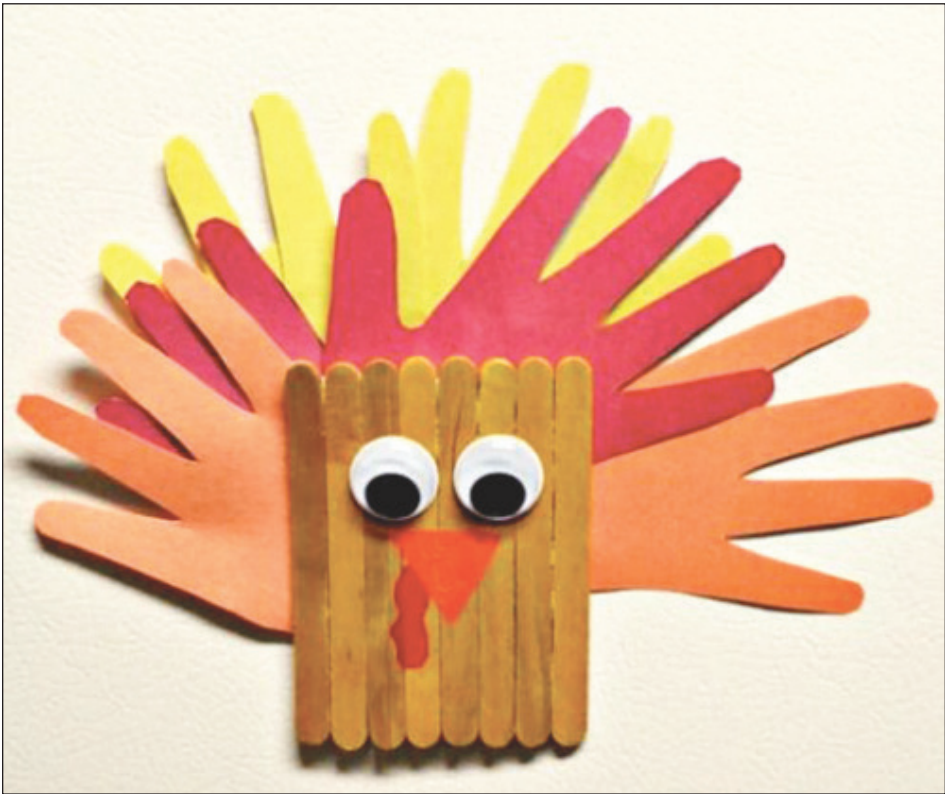


My daily community Covid-19 updates posted this message for the holidays: "With the holidays approaching, you may be thinking about ways to gather with loved ones to celebrate. As a reminder, the safest choice is to avoid gathering with anyone you don't already live with. Staying within your own household is the only sure way to not spread COVID-19 to others. Instead of celebrating in-person, consider connecting with loved ones via the phone or virtually. If, however, you plan to get together with family or friends, here are some things you can do to lower the risk. See link below."

I've been submitting stories to this newspaper since 2007. I pass on tales about the old days of Somerville and its many transitions. I can personally attest to at least 65 years of those memories.

I try to keep my finger on the pulse of current news while looking for a story from yesteryear. Sometimes I have to discuss the present.

It's been a tough year, dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Schedules, ap-



pointments, decorum and momentum were cancelled. Plans were dashed and the brightest and most exciting time in a student's life was obliterated. My own class of 2020 graduating senior had no commencement ceremonies. Proms and parties were put on hold and 50th high school reunions were rescheduled.

Because of the pandemic, many of my friends in the entertainment business had no gigs. Musicians, comedians, dancers and actors, along with friends in the unions have been idle for months. Households were turned into classrooms, workspaces, and bunkers packed with sanitary wipes, disinfecting spray and paper products.

Our restaurants are struggling to adapt and survive. We have worn masks, shopped behind plexiglass, waited in lines for testing, and prayed for anyone who contracted the virus. We also pray that we will escape Covid's wrath.

Continued on page 12

RCC's NEW Nursing Program is Accepting Applications



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

One-man truck pile-up

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Springfield St. location last week on reports of a vehicular accident.

Upon arrival, police dispatch informed arriving units that the vehicle in question had struck two parked cars. A traffic unit and EMTs were subsequently called to the scene.

One vehicle, later identified as belonging to Alan Kelly, of Med-

ford, was discovered close to a white SUV, which had sustained no damage. However, two trucks in front of it did.

One had damage on the driver's side from the front bumper to the rear bumper, and the second also had damage on the driver's side from the front bumper to the rear bumper.

Officers reportedly noticed that Kelly's eyes were red and glassy.

An odor or alcohol was also reportedly emanating from him, and he was slurring his speech.

Upon questioning Kelly, police were told that he had about two alcoholic beverages while working on Cambridge Street in Cambridge.

Kelly then reportedly said that while driving home to Medford he swerved to miss an oncoming car and crashed into the two vehicles

that were parked on the road.

The officers informed Kelly that if he was hurt he should be seen at the hospital, but he reportedly told them that he was not injured.

Knowing that Kelly was not injured and suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, the officers asked him to submit to field sobriety tests at the scene of the crash.

Kelly reportedly refused to take the tests. Once he refused these tests, he was informed that he was under arrest and placed into handcuffs.

He was taken to the police station, where he once again refused to take any sobriety tests, and booked on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Alan Kelly, of Medford, November 17, 10:12 p.m., arrested at Springfield St. on charges of

negligent operation of a motor vehicle and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Russell Rounbehler, November 19, 10:06 p.m., arrested at Wallace St. on warrant charges of operation of a motor vehi-

cle with a suspended license, failure to wear a seatbelt, no inspection sticker, false motor vehicle title, receiving a stolen

motor vehicle, possession of a class A drug, and miscellaneous equipment violation.

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Conway Park reconstruction anticipated to begin in early 2021

CONT. FROM PG 1

grass field will be replaced by synthetic turf. The turf will sit above a few layers of organic material to facilitate drainage. Underneath are materials acting as a barrier from the historic fill.

The renovation will also include the installation of a new lighting system for the field. Kunkel expects 90% of the light will be cast directly onto the field without impacts offset. He says the light will reduce to ordinary streetlight level around the property lines.

Andrew Louw, the city's public space planner, assured the public that the lighting will only be used under permitted circumstances. However, he said the sports lighting does not comply with the dark sky policy of Somerville. "It's almost impossible for the sports lighting to

comply with the city's dark sky policy," Louw said.

The splash pad is already fenced off to the public due to contamination. It will serve as the entrance and exit once the renovation begins. Kunkel said the new splash pad will increase shade and seating. It will also have more permeable surfaces to reduce run-off in rain. They will also introduce native understory pollinator plantings.

47 out of 59 trees currently in the field will be removed. The city will plant 62 new trees during the renovation.

The renovators will also replace around a hundred feet of containing wall at the southwest corner. They will install a new wall at the west border.

The playground will feature some elements for children



The Conway Park proposed site plan.

— Courtesy of Weston & Sampson Design Studio

aged 2-5. Kunkel said that the play equipment currently installed is more suitable for children of 5-12. The city will restore the metal play equipment and replace the signage. They will also avoid tripping hazards on the playground by replacing broken concrete. Flexi-pave will replace the tree grates. They will also repair the rubber surface on the accessible route. The basketball court will have new asphalt and markings.

The City Council approved remediation and construction funding on October 22. Louw

anticipates the project to be finished by the end of 2021.

The city has published more details of the project

on its website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/conway-field-and-playground-contamination>.



Former Acting Chief of Police Charles Femino to serve as acting Chief of Police

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced on Saturday that former Acting Chief of Police Charles Femino has agreed to serve as the Acting Chief of Police effective December 12 until a permanent replacement is found for departing Chief David Fallon, who announced his pending retirement in March.

Femino most recently served as the Chief of Police for Endicott College. Prior to that, he had a distinguished career with the Somerville Police Department from 1984 to 2014 where he served as Chief of Detectives for over 15 years, as Deputy Chief, and as Acting Chief from 2013 to 2014. Femino holds a Juris Doctor from the New England School of Law, a Masters in Education from Boston University, and a Bachelors in Criminal Science from Northeastern University.

Chief of Police David Fallon is retiring on December 11, 2020. Femino will start working for the department on November 30 to ensure a smooth transition and will continue with the department until a permanent replacement is found. As the Acting Chief, Femino will not

be eligible to apply for the permanent Chief of Police position.

"We thank Chief Fallon for his years of service to the Somerville community and welcome Charles Femino back to the department," said Mayor Curtatone. "With his leadership ability and extensive policing experience, I trust that he will lead the department through this transition as smoothly and effectively as he did in 2013."

Initial steps to launch the selection process for a new Chief are now underway after being paused due to the pandemic and the necessary prioritization of the COVID-19 emergency response. Mayor Curtatone will select a new police chief in accordance with the City Charter and City Ordinance, which requires a selection committee that consists of the city's Director of Personnel; one member of the City Council appointed by the Council President; two members of the general public appointed by the Mayor; two members of the general public appointed by the Council President; and two sworn officers of the Somerville Police Department, one representing the patrol officers' union

and one representing the superior officers' union, both elected by those respective unions.

The ordinance also includes the director of the city's multicultural affairs commission in the selection committee, but Mayor Curtatone will submit to the City Council a proposed change to the ordinance to include the city's new Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) Director instead. An inclusive hiring committee that includes representation from the community, the City Council, and the School Committee is currently reviewing applications for the RSJ Director and expects to identify a finalist in early 2021.

The police chief selection committee, which will be convened in early 2021, will choose between three and five finalists, who will take part in a public interview, with community members invited to attend and submit written questions ahead of time.

"We are fortunate to have such a distinguished and skilled veteran of the Somerville Police lead the department as we conduct our search for a new chief," said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. "I have every confidence that Charles Femino will ensure the



continued excellence of SPD's role in our COVID-19 emergency response as well as continue the important work Chief Fallon has accelerated as we move the department forward during this period of reimagining policing and advancing racial and social justice. The search for a new chief will be an open, transparent, and inclusive public process, and I look forward to the community's engagement with this important work."

"Chief Fallon's tireless commitment to compassionate, community-based policing has set the bar high for his successor.

His embrace of forward-thinking approaches and continual learning and growth for the department — be it jail diversion, victim advocacy, deployment of social workers as part of police response, crisis intervention, anti-bias efforts, or de-escalation — has set a standard for his peers. He has championed not only safety for all, but fairness and equity, both in Somerville and through his regional leadership. As he prepares for the next phase of his life, we wish him all the best and commit to ensure that his legacy of excellence and progress will carry on."

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City announces \$500,000 in emergency housing funds for Covid-19 rental/mortgage assistance

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced on Monday that \$500,000 in federal Covid-19 Cares Act Relief funds are being dedicated to the Flex-CV Fund to support residents behind in housing payments due to impacts of the pandemic. The FLEX-CV program is an emergency temporary rental and mortgage assistance program for Somerville residents who have had an income loss, or an increase in expenses, caused by or exacerbated by Covid-19.

Income-eligible residents are urged to quickly apply as all funding must be allotted by December 30, 2020. This means applications should be sent in early enough to be processed before the Dec. 30 cutoff. Office of Housing Stability and Office of Immigrant Affairs staff are available to answer questions and provide application assistance in any language. FLEX-CV support is available to income-eligible Somerville residents regardless of immigration status. The Somerville Homeless Coalition has been selected to administer the FLEX-CV program.

“Through no fault of their own, this pandemic has caused too many to lose jobs and income or face new financial pressures that have set them behind

on housing payments. As a community uniting against this virus, we must ensure the security and dignity of our fellow residents and do all we can to slow community spread, which starts with having a safe space to go home to. These funds aim to support housing stability for those most deeply impacted by this historic pandemic,” said Mayor Curtatone.

“We have had a housing crisis long before COVID-19, but the pandemic has been like pouring lighter fluid on the sparks. I’m incredibly grateful that Somerville, at the local level, has been working so hard to help people stay in their homes, and I hope this housing assistance cash can get into peoples’ hands as quickly as possible,” said Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

To apply for the Flex-CV program, go to <https://somer-villehomelesscoalition.org/rapid-response/>. Applications are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. For assistance in applying, visit www.somervillema.gov/OHS and click on referral to provide your contact information. For more information or application assistance in any language, contact (617) 625-6600 ext. 2581. Please apply as soon as possible. Applications

will be reviewed on a rolling basis as received.

When to apply:

Apply as soon as possible. December 30 is not a deadline for the public, but rather the date the City must allot the funds by. So, it is best to apply as soon as possible to allow application processing before the December 30 cutoff.

Eligibility:

To be eligible an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Have gross household income at or below 100% of Area Median Income (AMI) for the region (see AMI amounts below);
2. Be a resident of Somerville (homeowners must live in their property as a primary residence); and
3. Have outstanding rental or mortgage, charges that have accrued since the start of the pandemic (March 2020 - present), or need assistance for payment of rent or mortgage costs for December 2020.

Allowable Expenditures:

Payment will be made to third parties (for example, bank, landlord) for eligible applicants for any outstanding rent, rental late fees, housing-related court costs, and mortgage due at the time of application. Prospective



stipends may also be paid for expected nonpayments through the month of December 2020.

Payment Amounts:

Applicants are encouraged to apply for the full amount owed or needed and support will be considered for up to that full amount based on funding availability and equitable distribution among applicants. Payments for allowable expenditures cannot exceed payment for any reason for a service or liability incurred after December 2020.

Household income thresholds:

Household income must be below the Area Median Income (AMI). The 2020 HUD-approved Area Median Income limits for Somerville are as follows:

- 1-person household \$83,300
- 2-person household \$95,220

- 3-person household \$107,100
- 4-person household \$119,000
- 5-person household \$128,520
- 6-person household \$138,040
- 7-person household \$147,560
- 8-person household \$157,080

There may be more than one applicant household residing in a living accommodation. Unrelated roommates may be able to apply separately. Otherwise, households are made up of family units composed of spouses, their children, and/or any parent of the children and/or caretaker of minor children. Household income is the total combined gross income for all such household members including any received child support. If you are unsure who to count in your household, this will be clarified for you during the application process.

'All Small' exhibit aims to connect people and artists

CONT. FROM PG 1

Arts Council (SAC). It was originally designed to be a “directory show” for Brickbottom Open Studios, an event inviting people to artist’s studios and homes in order to appreciate their pieces, and for people to get a preview of artists’ works. The annual event had to be canceled, but the themed exhibit gets its chance to be presented to the public.

Under current circumstances where many museums, galleries are yet to open, an exhibit like this is an accessible way for people to see local artists’ works right in their neighborhood, according to SAC Office Manager and Arts Coordinator Heather Balchunas, one of the curators.

It is also a window for artists to get connected with people, said printmaker Debra Olin. She is the other curator of the exhibition. “One of the pleasures, and the importance of being an artist is being able to share your work with other people, get feedback, and just kind of give you the evidence to continue working,” she said. “And so, when you’re isolated from your viewers, then it makes it difficult.”

More than 30 works by 13 artists include paintings, sculptures, photography and mixed media art are displayed in the two windows. Ellen Young’s *Blue Studies* is a picture frame made up of eight small pictures of the sky and clouds. The clouds on the pictures are “painted” by removing the blue paint with a solvent, exposing the white of the paper. She also added a bit of gray pastel.

After joining an organization called Cloud Appreciation Society, Young became an enthusiastic cloud-spotter and is good at identifying different clouds ever since. “The sky is my favorite subject right now, because it lifts my spirits to look up into all that vast spaciousness and light and color,” said Young.

Several of Pauline Lim’s paintings are included in the exhibit. Characterized by vibrant colors, three-dimensional items, banners with slogans, diverse animal characters, many of her works “have to do with the frustration of being trapped in a mortal existence,” the artist wrote on her website. “The increasing aches

and pains of aging underscore this dilemma to me every day, and make me seek out color and beauty, as well as the relief of laughter alongside the recognition of despair.”

I Am Nearing the End is a work inspired by a walk in Kendal, UK, when the sky was gloomy and the trees were naked, Lim said. “My husband was walking up a path in this stark landscape. I am 54 now, and the greater part of my life is behind me, so I was thinking of my own mortality.”

I Knew You Would Find Me! was inspired by the frequent dreams the artist has making her feel lonely in the world. “I think of the joy this floating girl would feel when she finally spots her beloved pet. But she has to float above all of the obstacles in the way to see the little dog,” Lim said.

Painter Jacky Pullman enjoys creating with acrylic (mostly) and pastels (occasionally), and gets inspiration from things around her. No matter whether it’s flowers in her front yard, or a place where she spent her vacation.



Belize depicts the chairs that Pullman and her husband spent many afternoons lounging in, reading on the beach in Hopkins, Belize. Her *Rose of Sharon* and *End of the Hyacinth* both feature flowers in containers.

“The Rose of Sharon was a theme in many of my paintings this past summer. There was a large Rose of Sharon tree in my front yard. I would pick a branch and put it in water every week. Every day a new flower would open as the one from the day before dropped off,” Pullman said. “The grape hyacinth grows in my garden in the spring, and it’s always sad when their season ends. Painting them keeps them alive a bit longer!”

Graphic designer, illustrator and calligrapher Pier Gustafson

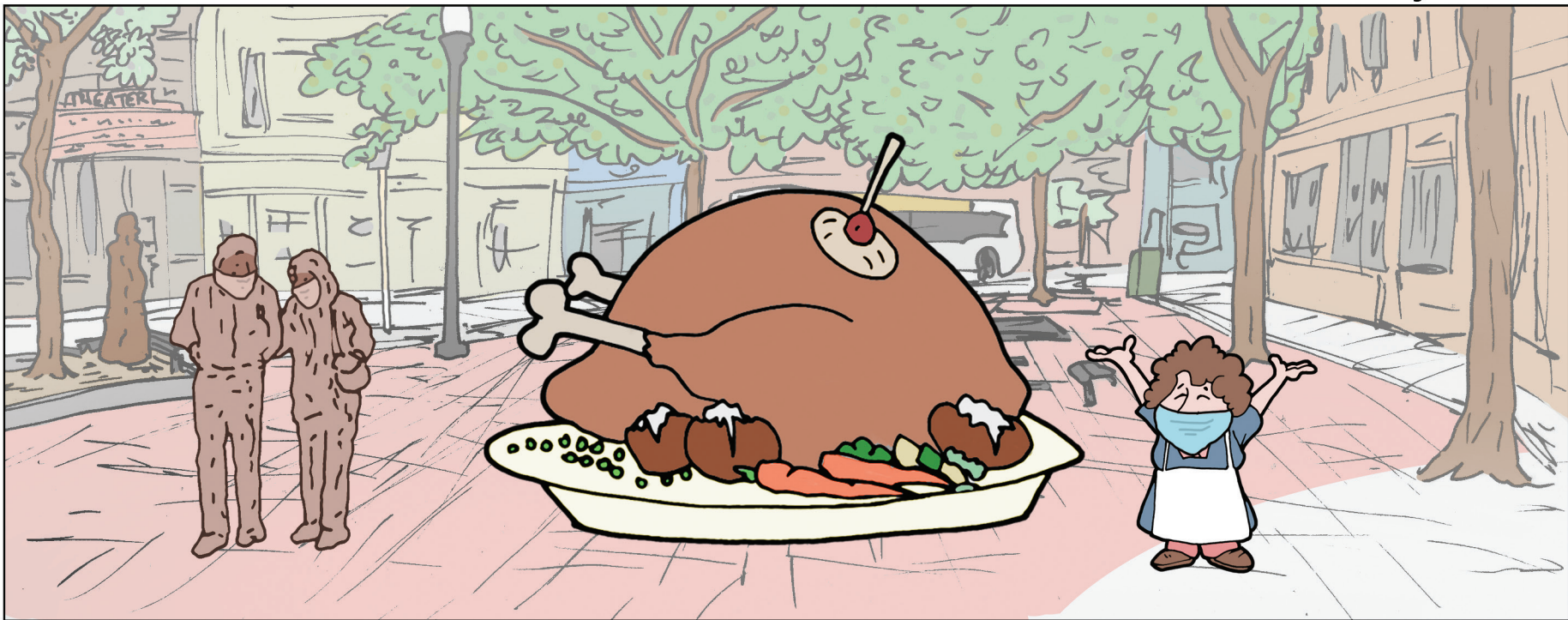
has been creating many things out of recycled boxes lately. He is fond of boxes because the graphics printed on them give him lots of inspiration.

Gustafson’s *Picnic* is composed of a couple of fishes made with recycled USPS shipping boxes. While he was making the little fishes, he found another possibility with the red parts on them. “The red parts had not been used in the fish and were laying in a little pile and I suddenly saw it as a big bad red fish ... i.e., Trump,” according to Gustafson. “He was in the news speaking of the problems of mail-in voting and I decided that would be his undoing. Little blue democratic fish devouring the big bad red republican monster.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Have a happy – and safe – Thanksgiving Day, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times



This year's Thanksgiving Day observance will be like no other in our lifetimes. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat to our health and safety, and therefore guidance dictates that we should avoid the traditional larger gatherings and instead only celebrate among those in our immediate circle.

Some of us have it better than others this year, it goes without saying. Conversely, many of us may be struggling to simply make ends meet. One thing that unites us all in common spirit is the heartfelt acknowledgement of what we do have to be grateful for.

Whatever our circumstances may be, each and every one of us has blessings to count and thanks to be given for them.

This should extend to our sense of charity, too, as we contribute to our local churches, soup kitchens, and service organizations. The experience of simply volunteering to serve food at a holiday dinner can be a life changing event, as one learns firsthand the value of, and satisfaction achieved by, the selfless act of helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

May this holiday provide a bit of respite from the gloom and tensions we have struggled with recently. May it give us pause to reflect on our many blessings in spite of the challenges. Better times are on the way, and one day we will look back on this time and feel a sense of pride that we have bravely weathered the storm.

We wish all of our readers the happiest of holidays, and all the days to come thereafter. We further extend our sincere wishes for the blessings of life's bounty to one and all outside of our readership.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday to **Jason Fucile**, who celebrates this week. We miss Jason and Nancy now that **Victor's** is closed but we wish them the best. We wish Jason a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Craig Resmini**. We wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Mary McGuire, Julie Adelsberger, Lisa Hupe, Brian Kirk, Kim Volz, Joseph Di Pietro** and **Nancy Robinson Faulkner** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Did you know that **Somerville Public Schools** serves over **5000 meals per week** to students? The **Food and Nutrition Services Department** staff plays a crucial role, providing Somerville families with food security through healthy, fresh, takeaway meals. Students and families can pick up breakfast and lunch at 8 district schools. Read more about the transition from cafeteria to socially-distanced service at the start of the pandemic in our latest district blog: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/5000-free-meals-every-week>. Find out how to pick up free meals, Monday – Friday at the Food and Nutrition Services website (hint- includes menus): <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/FNS>

Join the **Community Growing Center** this **December** for their **twice-weekly Open Hours**. All month long, volunteer hosts make sure the garden is open for visitors to enjoy **every Tuesday**, from 3:00 to 4:40 p.m., and **Saturday**, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come by the Growing Center, stroll the paths, enjoy the plants in the garden, and take a moment to enjoy this little green oasis tucked right into Union Square. Remember to bundle up to stay warm, dry, and comfortable: dress in layers (base, insulating, and outer shell), bring a thermos of something warm to sip, and keep moving out there. Due to current public health conditions, a limited number of visitors are allowed in the site at any one time. But if you come by and they're full, please just swing by again soon. To learn more about the Community Growing Center, visit www.thegrowingcenter.org.

Groundwork Somerville is celebrating **20 years of service** to the Somerville community. Join them in a series of free virtual events to celebrate their work and community. To learn more about upcoming events, visit <http://www.groundworksomerville.org/help-us-celebrate-20-years-of-groundwork-somerville/>.

The deadline for applying for the second round of **Small Business Relief Funds** is **Monday, November 30**, by 3:00 p.m. Visit somervillema.gov/bizrelief for more information about the funding as well as how to apply.

Calling all **young 'Villens**. Winter may, in fact, be coming, and daylight hours are dwindling, but don't forget, **SomerSocial** is here to brighten your weekday afternoons with fun, free, virtual after-school programming. Perfect your podcast pitch, join a crew for **Among Us**, or get crafty with local creatives. Sign up for parkour lessons, nature club, animation workshops, theater classes, and more. All sessions are live, synchronous programs for youth in grades K through 8, taught by community partners from **Somerville Media Center, the Beautiful Stuff Project, Parkour Generations, Somerville Arts for Youth, Parts and Crafts**, and **Farrington Nature Linc**. Learn more and register now at somersocial.com.

The **Somerville Mathematics 2020 Scrapheap Showdown** has gone virtual. Students are invited to team up for a **Game Jam**. Compete individually or in teams of three on a different kind of challenge, one where you design a game that will be played and judged in part by the other teams. Participants will create their games between **December 8 – 13**. The winner will be announced by **December 20**. Register individually or as a team by **Wednesday, December 2**. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/Y2agwREQ56Cb1MgV6>.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, and Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne invite you to attend the third virtual community meeting about the **Holland Street and College Avenue Mobility Improvements project** on **Wednesday, December 9**, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will take place on the GoToMeeting webinar platform. Register to attend at bit.ly/HollandCollegeMeeting3. At the meeting, staff will review the community process to date and present

Continued on page 11

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#757

1. What U.S. President was sent a raccoon to eat for Thanksgiving?

2. What kind of Turkeys cannot fly?

3. When did Adam Sandler first perform *The Thanksgiving Song*?

4. What is another name for the Thanksgiving poem *The New-England Boy's Song about Thanksgiving Day*?

5. What civil holiday is observed on the day after Thanksgiving in the United States?

6. Which southern state was the first to adopt a Thanksgiving Day in 1855?

7. Where does the first recipe for cranberry sauce appear?

8. What will be the only way to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2020?

9. In what century could you find the first pumpkin pie recipes in American cookbooks?

10. What 1947 film begins with the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?

11. What famous character appears at the end of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?

12. The term Black Friday originated in what U.S. city?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. In the last 4000 years no new animals have been domesticated.

2. A mole can dig over 250 feet of tunnel in a single night.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

FAMOUS LANDMARKS

ACROSS

1. Octagonal sign

5. "Don't have a ____!"

8. Can of worms

12. Pathetic

13. Spanish sparkling wine

14. Pico de gallo

15. WWII side

16. Like word of mouth

17. Church song

18. Victoria in Zimbabwe or Horse-shoe in Canada

20. Home to Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle

21. Massachusetts university

22. "____ Be Home For Christmas"

23. Olympic torch, e.g.

25. On the move

28. Menu words

29. Golden Gate or Mackinac

32. Goodbye, to bambino

34. Ruling in Islamic law

36. Variable, abbr.

37. Can, with thou

38. South American monkey

39. Versailles or Buckingham

41. Thus far

42. Yoko's John

44. Collectively

46. Party bowlful

47. Memory failure

49. Goals

51. St. Basil's or Canterbury

55. Independent, slang

56. Initial stake

57. Field of Dreams state

58. More than one stylus

59. Barnes and Noble or Barnum and Bailey

60. Jaunty rhythm in music

61. Don Quixote's enemy

62. Urge Spot to attack

63. Besides

DOWN

1. BBQ side

2. Taxon, pl.

3. Fail to mention

4. Bygone Spanish money

CROSSWORD

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© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

5. Jeweler's unit

6. Egg-like curves

7. The Western one in Israel or the Great one in China

8. La Sagrada Familia or St. Peter's

9. Having wings

10. ____ of Man

11. Scottish cap

13. Ceiling panel in the Pantheon

14. Type of wheat

19. Cuban dance

22. Glacier matter

23. Medieval knight's spiky weapon

24. Coffee shop order

25. Home to Taj Mahal

26. Phonograph record

27. Artist's support

28. Back, at sea

30. Director Reitman

31. Indian restaurant staple

33. Giant Hall-of-Famer

35. Moulin Rouge or Netherland's landmark

37. Incense without prefix

39. Weasel-related onomatopoeia

40. Enigma machine's output

43. One born to Japanese immigrants

45. Roman magistrate

47. Hawaiian veranda

48. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the ____"

49. Naysayer's favorite prefix

50. Bucolic poem

51. Type in all ____

52. Agitate

53. Hole punchers

54. Like the White Rabbit

55. Any doctrine

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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Somerville artists honor lives lost to COVID-19

With the United States crossing 250,000 lives lost to COVID-19, the Somerville Arts Council has put together somervillere remembers.org, a website that features pictures from local photographers that mark the passing of Somerville residents due to this pandemic. The photos use empty chairs displayed in Somerville locations, each to represent a person who has succumbed to this virus.

The project was undertaken when the city’s confirmed fatalities stood at 42 people. Sadly, the number continues to rise and now stands at 47.

“Every life lost to this disease is a tragedy and these people deserve to be remembered,” said Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. “If we suffered any other catastrophe that cost us 47 souls, our city would come to an immediate stop as people tried to process the shock and grief of that loss. Because disease moves more slowly it doesn’t hit us all at once, but the cumulative impact is no less devastating. Each of those empty chairs represents a person who is no longer able to spend time with us, who leaves a space that can never be filled.”

The photos feature familiar locations such as the Davis Square T station and the Latta Brothers Memorial Pool at Foss Park as well as local porches, streets, murals and businesses. The artists for the project are Jaina Cipriano, Kathlyn Almeida, Charles Daniels, Asia Kepka, Yorgos Efthymiadis, and Caleb Cole.

In her statement about the project, Cipriano said: “Grief is complicated. When we experience a deep loss there is a sense of the world moving too fast around us while time is standing still. It is almost unbearable when mixed with this permanent sense of waiting – of forgetting and expecting to see the one we’ve lost. We have to rediscover our grief many times before it sticks. I searched for locations that were heavy with expectancy, blurred with motion or glaringly empty to explore these feelings. In each photo there is a bit of beauty, the golden touch of light or the delicate growth of a vine, a reminder of the way we heal – slowly and moment by moment.

Members of the public are encouraged not only to visit the site to pay homage to those who have passed, but also to donate to the Somerville Cares Fund at somervillema.gov/somervillecares to help those who are struggling to afford housing, food, and basic necessities during this crisis. Members of the local arts community have been particularly hard hit by the economic recession ushered in by this pandemic.



The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #218

Thanksgiving – 399 Years

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

In the autumn of 1621, the custom of Thanksgiving in America was first announced by Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Colony. This tradition was created to give thanks for the survival of the European immigrants who fled religious and self-governing intolerance and survived the grueling sixty-six-day voyage across the stormy Atlantic Ocean.



The arduous voyage took place one year earlier and was comprised of 102 over-crowded Pilgrims who had endured the harsh winter elements, diseases and a drastic food shortage on the freezing Atlantic coast. It took the lives of half of its population.

This first Thanksgiving Day was a celebration in gratitude for the first harvest in their new world. Much of their gratitude was for Myles Standish, the military leader of the Plymouth Colony. He was the protector of the Colony and the fifth signer of the Mayflower Compact. He was sent northward by the original Plymouth Colony to attempt to make peace with non-hostile natives and request their help in order for the settlement to survive.



Standish, nine of his men, and three natives sailed in shallops up the coast from Plymouth, past today’s Boston harbor to the base of the Mystic River. Here, they disembarked and explored roughly five miles inland. It brought them to today’s West Somerville and Medford area where they scouted and made contact with peaceful natives. It was a successful mission exploring and creating new friendships with indigenous tribes.

Continued on page 11

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:45pm** on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings **will be conducted via remote participation.**

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6393979384935514128>

Webinar ID: 904-900-339

TO CALL IN

Phone #: +1 (562) 247-8422

Access code: 229-458-436

DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS
PUBLIC HEARINGS – Public comment will be opened by the Chair only on cases being discussed that evening. Public comment is not taken for cases continued to a later date or cases requesting withdrawal. Comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

HPC.ALT 2020-52 – 122 Prospect Street
Applicant: Vincent Kilrow
Owner: Luke Massa
Replace 7 windows on Unit 1 (Somerville side only).

HPC.ALT 2020-50 – 48 – 50 Highland Avenue
Applicant: Craig Murphy
Owner: GNY Realty, Inc.
Install awning over entry door.


HPC.ALT 2020-46 – 141 Central Street
Applicant: David Bischoff
Owner: same as applicant
Install front fence to match existing at abutting row house units.

DETERMINATIONS OF "HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT" (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)
PUBLIC HEARINGS – Public comment will be opened by the Chair only on cases being discussed that evening. Public comment is not taken for cases continued to a later date or cases requesting withdrawal. Comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

HPC.DMO 2020-24 – 8 Medford Street
Applicant: Medford Properties, LLC
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure.

*While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are only available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

11/25/20 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP 21-31

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department, invites sealed proposals for:


Phone Answering Services for 311

A request for proposals (RFP) package may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or www.bidexpress.com on or after **Wednesday, November 25th, 2020**. Sealed proposals will be received at the Purchasing Office, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 or via Bid Express until: **Wednesday, December 16th, 2020 at 2:00pm**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Thupten Chukhatsang at tcukhatsang@somerville-ma.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x. 3400

11/25/20 The Somerville Times



Section 00.11.13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Brady Towers Common Area Flooring Replacement, SHA project #2012, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Reverse Architecture dated November 18, 2020.

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of existing VCT flooring and resilient wall base in the common areas, hallways, elevator lobbies and elevators with new LVT flooring and resilient wall base on 9 floors.

The work is estimated to cost \$ 106,000.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 544A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by the Davis/Bacon Wage Rate. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General bids will be received until **2:00 pm on Friday, 04 December 2020** and publicly opened online forthwith.

All bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternatives) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

Bid forms and Contract documents will be available for pick up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan Deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets upon return of the sets in good condition within (30) days of receipt of bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional Sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: **Tuesday, November 24 at 10:00AM**
Address: Brady Towers, Entry Lobby
252 Medford Street, Somerville, MA.

It is strongly suggested all prospective bidders attend the site visit.

Questions or requests for an appointment to see the work site should be directed to Brian Langton at brianl@sha-web.org or 617-625-1152, Ext 331.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Somerville Housing Authority 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145 617-625-1152	Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167
--	--

11/18/20, 11/25/20 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY

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The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA. 02141
(617) 768- 5800

CITATION
G.L.c. 210, §6

Docket No. MI20A0298AD

In the matter of: Julian Michael Goodridge

To:

Ashley Newton

and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Darryl Brion Goodridge of Somerville, MA
Renee Marie Goodridge of Somerville, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to
Julian Michael Goodridge

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.
An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT:
Cambridge
ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM)
12/17/2020

Witness, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 20, 2020

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

ORDER OF NOTICE

It is ordered that notice of said proceeding be given by mailing to the Department of Children and Families and by delivering in hand and if in hand service cannot be accomplished then by mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the forgoing citation to said persons **fourteen days** at least before said return date, and if service is by mail, unless it shall appear that all persons interested have received actual notice, by publishing a copy thereof in **The Somerville Times, Somerville** publication to be once in each of three consecutive weeks, the last publication to be seven (7) days at least before said return day.

Witness, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 20, 2020

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

Darryl Brion Goodridge
24 Malvern Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

11/11/20, 11/18/20, 11/25/20 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:

www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

From on page 14

Ms. Cam's


Olio

Answers

1. President Calvin Coolidge – he made it his pet instead	6. Virginia
2. Domestic turkeys	7. In the 1796 edition of <i>The Art of Cookery</i> by Amelia Simmons
3. November 21, 1992 on <i>Saturday Night Live</i>	8. On TV
4. <i>Over the River and Through the Wood</i>	9. Early 19th century
5. Native American Heritage Day	10. <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i>
	11. Santa Claus
	12. Philadelphia

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Project File No. 608562

A Virtual Design Public Information Meeting will be published on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements at McGrath Highway (Route 28) / Mystic Avenue (Route 38) Project in Somerville, MA.

WHEN: **Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an update of the proposed Intersection Improvements at McGrath Highway (Route 28) / Mystic Avenue (Route 38) Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of intersection improvements to improve safety for all users and to provide more efficient traffic operations in the immediate area of the intersection of McGrath Highway (Route 28) / Mystic Avenue (Route 38). This project will address the safety and operational deficiencies faced by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. The work will include new traffic signals; improved pedestrian accessibility and connections; improved transit accessibility; and updated signs and pavement markings.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Highway Design**, Project File No. **608562**. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public meeting transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the meeting is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

This Virtual Design Public Information Meeting or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/mass-dot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
11/18/20, 11/25/20 The Somerville Times

PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 0180
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

MIDDLESEX Division

Docket No. MI20P5147EA

Estate of:
Roberta Silva

Date of Death: 08/27/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by:

Maureen T. Giordano of Wilmington, MA

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Maureen T. Giordano of Wilmington, MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/14/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 16, 2020

11/25/20 The Somerville Times

Tara E. De Cristofaro
Register of Probate

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:

www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

Standish was the first European to explore what is now Somerville. Plymouth Colony was in a particularly precarious way and truly needed this success to survive. It was at this time that the First Thanksgiving was celebrated. It was at this dinner that 90 Native Americans, Standish (the only lawman in New England,) and 51 other pilgrims hailed their newfound friendship and partnership.

In 1872, the same year that Somerville became a city, the cornerstone was laid for the Myles Standish Monument on Captains Hill overlooking Plymouth Bay in Duxbury. At the time, the 116-foot-tall shaft, with a 14-foot statue of Standish at the top, was rivaled only by the Washington Monument as a United States monument to an individual.

So, when we sit down with families and friends this difficult year of 2020, let’s be thankful for all our blessings and remember that what is now our City of Somerville played a small part in making this great holiday.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and Happy 400th birthday to Plymouth!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Editor and the people of Somerville

I wanted to let the people of Somerville know about the passing of a true Somerville Icon last month. His name was Harold Cohen. He was the co-founder of Somerville Lumber. Along with his brother, Melvin Cohen, they purchased Prospect Lumber on McGrath Highway in 1956.

They renamed the company Somerville Lumber and turned the business into a Retail Powerhouse that employed several thousand employees with 10 different locations in 3 different states.

The Somerville location was the first

retail operation in the WORLD that generated over \$50,000,00 in sales from one location. They were truly innovative, offering free delivery before anyone in ANY industry. They fueled the DIY craze of the eighties with quality products and pricing, along with unparalleled customer service. They also catered to professional customers. The Cohen's were notorious for providing credit to people starting out in the trades to help them grow their business. The extensive training that they provided to their employees enabled us for the rest of our lives.

In 1979 I stepped into the picture. I

ended up working for Somerville Lumber for 18 years. I went in there desperately needing a job, I met with Harold and he immediately hired me when I mentioned Mr. Hugh Gillen (another Somerville icon). He gave me a chance when no one else would.

Harold had a gift. He truly knew how to motivate and encourage people to excel and reach their true potential. He was one of the most influential people in my life. I am confident that there are hundreds of people that would say the same! His impact on us is still felt today. He truly cared about our family, our future, our happiness and our

success. I will never forget what he did for me and the many people that were employed at Somerville Lumber. Many of us were from Somerville and the opportunity that Somerville Lumber provided us with propelled us into successful careers, home ownership and many, many memories.

Harold truly was a Somerville Icon who had a positive impact on the City of Somerville and the many people that were lucky enough to cross paths with him.

Ken Spilman
Derry, NH

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

the proposed final design for changes to improve roadway safety for all users and support sustainable, multimodal transportation. The proposed design includes new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, bus priority lanes, traffic-calming bump-outs,

and other changes. Staff will take questions and additional input from community members. The proposed final design is available for review at somervillema.gov/hollandandcollege. For more information or to provide feedback,

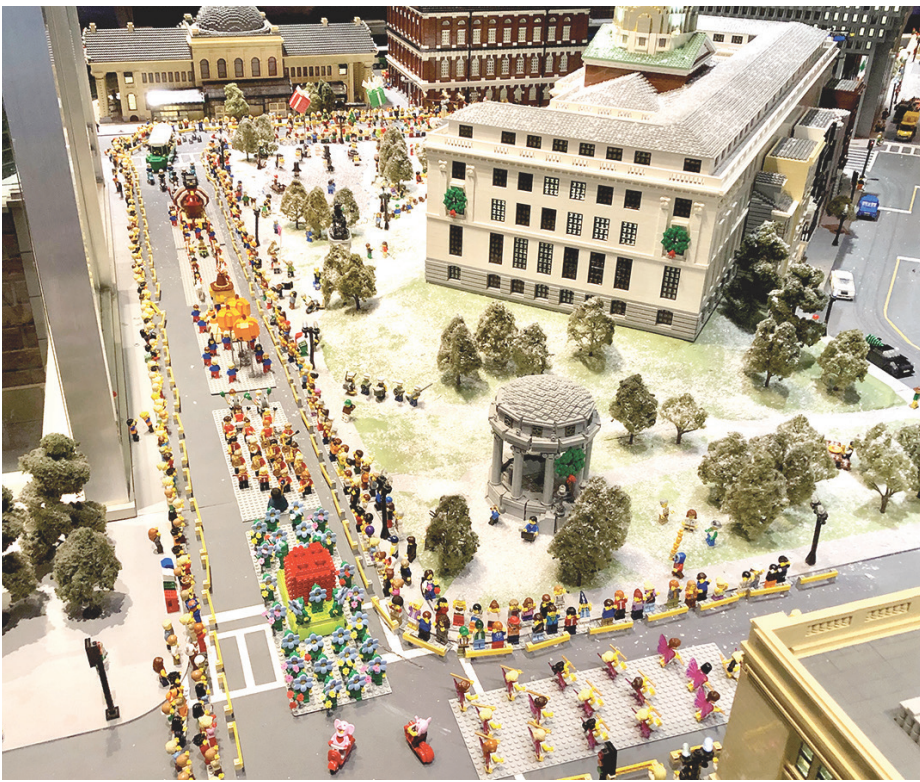
please contact the **Mobility Division** at transportation@somervillema.gov.

Residential parking enforcement, which was suspended earlier this year, will resume on **Tuesday, December 1**. If you

don't have a residential parking permit or need to renew yours, now is the time to do it. You can apply for or renew your permit online or via the mail or drop box at the **Parking Department** office. Visit somervillema.gov/parking or call 311.

The Thanksgiving Parade is NOT CANCELLED at LEGOLAND Discovery Center

Team of LEGO® building experts found their creative way to host the Thanksgiving Parade this year with LEGO bricks inside MINILAND at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston. Over 150 LEGO Minifigures participated in the parade, with crowds of mini-audience, iconic features like the Giant Turkey, the Duck Boat, and floating presents. Guests can enjoy the holiday parade that will continue to take place throughout the Holiday Bricktacular Event at the center until January 3, 2021. LEGOLAND Discovery Center Boston is closed on Thanksgiving Day and will be open again on Friday, November 27. Tickets are available for sale online.



Being carefully thankful CONT. FROM PG 3

Now that the pandemic is spiking again and heading upwards, we find ourselves at the end of a very stressful and trying nine months. It's Thanksgiving and I learned the hard way to never say "What the heck do I have to be thankful for?" Many say that 2020 has been the worst year of their life! I say we have everything to be thankful for because we are still here and a lot better off than some.

So, the question is how do we safely celebrate our gratitude with our loved ones when doing so may just keep this insane virus going and growing.

Maybe I'll pick up a turkey dinner someplace or grab a ham and keep my 67-year-old self safe in my house, with my cat, my TV, my phone and hopefully my health. I'm very thankful for my family and friends and pray that they continue to stay safe and stay vigilant. I'll see them

briefly, and safely. What really makes sense is spending Thanksgiving with only the members of your Immediate family.

Here are some things I'm personally thankful for:

I'm thankful that I never have to use that four-letter word "boss" again. If I ever write the book you will learn all about the many idiots' butts I had to ... kiss! I'm also thankful that I no longer work for the city. I enjoyed my years there but now I can write anything I want about some of my fellow workers at City Hall! Some of the mean ones! (but I won't. Yet!)

I'm thankful that my children are smart, healthy, inspiration driven, and compassionate.

I'm thankful that after losing two precious and loving family pets, another animal is now in my life. After the pain of losing two cherished pets, I was dead

set against getting another pet. My son, who's heart is enormous, found out about a cat who's longtime elderly owner passed away. The family didn't want the cat, who was very attached to his deceased owner. Fast forward, 15-year-old Oreo has made himself very comfortable in his new home. It turned out that I needed him as much as he needed me, although I may change his name to Tralfaz!

I'm grateful for my retirement. I'm doing what I always wanted to do. Eat, sleep, watch TV, and not have to go to work! Yay!

I'm also very much looking forward to a virtual visit with my 91-year-old friend and former fellow singing "Moonlighter" who has battled Covid and is convalescing nicely.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving! And off the record, no one likes whole berry cran-



berry sauce.
This link will provide the latest community updates pertaining to the virus: <https://www.somervillema.gov/covid19>

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



With this year's pandemic, what will be a popular side dish this Thanksgiving? Masked potatoes.

On This Day in History November 25

- 1863 – Union ends the siege of Chattanooga with the Battle of Missionary Ridge.
- 1914 – German Field Marshal Fredrich von Hindenburg calls off the Lodz offensive 40 miles from Warsaw, Poland.
- 1921 – Hirohito becomes regent of Japan.
- 1923 – Transatlantic broadcasting from England to America commences for the first time.
- 1947 – The Big Four meet to discuss the German and European economy.
- 1955 – The Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation in interstate travel.
- 1963 – The body of assassinated President John F. Kennedy is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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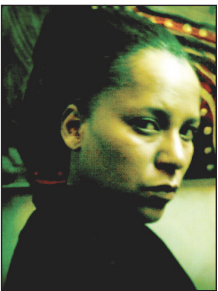
SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Poem from the Covid battlefield:

'The Empty Covid Octopus' by Julia Kanno

Julia Kanno writes: I am the mother of two amazing young men ages 27 and 17. I am from Appalachia and Botswana. I am an artist and also work in healthcare. I have self-published with my co-pilot levin pfeuffer two books of prose *a storm is cum-ing* and *The hardest helmut*. My first reading was done at Northeastern University and since then I have read at the Somerville Armory two times. I consider myself an introverted artist/writer. I give birth to my works including those that have been displayed at the Decordova Museum as well as Howard University and local gems such as The Middle East and Out of the Blue gallery. I will be published in *Tell* magazine featuring my textiles and art in the spring. Currently, I am studying behavioral science and psychology because there is a need for more people of color to be there for people of color to help end the stigma of seeking mental health.



THE EMPTY COVID OCTOPUS

Tubes dance from ventilators
like
Infected dancing
Octopus tails.
They, the infected warriors,
stare out the window
With help from I
To look below from window
see the soaked
drenched, devastated
and confused faces
Of loved ones below.
Independence is robbed
Wheeled to the toilet by I
and robbed of privacy by I
Using instructed body mechanics
To rotate and give comfort and not
to degrade a human
and i am soooo sorry
as I humbly
Wipe the
Yellow
Brown
Or even red black
mud excrement
From the crease of your
butt.
Emptying your foley
Catheter
Is an honor
The smell bothers me no more
Because I am thrilled that your body
And your kidneys
Are connecting.

Freedom from the vent during the day is like finding inner
truth
Santa Clause
Or even the north star
Or getting a great deal on
Iwannalive.com
Yet..
Careful
You are still not you nor will you be
You are in a place

That I would sell my soul to not to be in.
This place is where

you are still isolated in a room with a glass window

And a speaker video system
Then
Hooked to the machine at night
That keeps you alive
While the trachea and breathing tubes
Rob your speech
And sleep
And all you have are memories of
The before

Cooking dinner for the kids
Teaching a classroom of students with wide eyes
Building houses
Being behind a mahogany bar as a bartender hearing sweet
and ugly
drunken truths.

You forget the feel of real clothes
Fresh cotton, wool, silk and even fucking polyester

The air smacking your open ass in your new uniform
your johnny
So weary and weak

You don't bother to cover yourself anymore.
Because of this you must eat baby food again
have to learn to chew again and
Swallow
Without dying

while you crave the beef stew that
your beloved made with a side of rye bread.
We people like I become your new family because you can-
not see
that grandchild
with the red curls
And pink lips
And upturned nose
Or that beautiful ebony little girl
That your daughter tried so hard to have
And she looks
Just like you
And your wife
That died 79 days ago from this beast.
Without u
That would not exist
Without your sperm
legacy and you.
The halls as you learn to walk again no longer smell like
death
Or shit
Or putrid urine
Because you have been there so long
These halls now
smell like home.
After seven months
And after put into a medically induced coma
And turned upside down
In a diaper
And rotated like a rotisserie human the whole time
A human will
Reverted back to infancy

In rehab
You have come so far
You sit up on you own but weak and learn
About how life went on..
Your son got discharged from the military
Your youngest daughter got eloped to that guy you never
liked
Your first granddaughter died from leukemia
Your wife had a biopsy and started preparing divorce papers
because
the idea of being a caregiver
was all too much
The house you built went up for sale because of the medical
bills
And your eldest son killed himself
In his garage
With a tube in his mouth
Looking at pictures of you.
cause he thought you wouldn't live
and he
Loved you
That much.
Later..
After rehab because of I
And doctors and staff and the team
And because you fought to make it
For them
And you know nothing
Because you were not to be upset
And keep in mind we never knew the progression of these
deviations
because we were focused on you.
You are wheeled out
On a Wednesday
At 3:45

Staff like I with balloons and music
Clapping
We dressed you as you wished
Dress shoes and real underwear and no diapers
And a dress shirt
Teal green
and even a tie
Red with flowers

And pleated pants
And brown shoes
You tied your own laces
And you wanted me to untie them again to show your family
That you can do it
How you could do it.
As we open the sliding doors
The blast of organic earth and fresh air hit your face
we have ten balloons
And you look amazing and so happy
And we wait
And wait
And there is not
One person.
But a housekeeping person
That says
"You made it man"
You clench your jaw
I clench my rage
And send you into the abyss.

— J.Kanno, 11/20



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